



**Watersheds Coalition**  
of Ventura County



# California NPS Conference San Diego 2008

Panel: Realizing the Integrated Regional  
Water-Shed Management Dream:  
Implementation and Success



# The Road to IRWMP Success In Ventura County: History, Collaboration and Consensus



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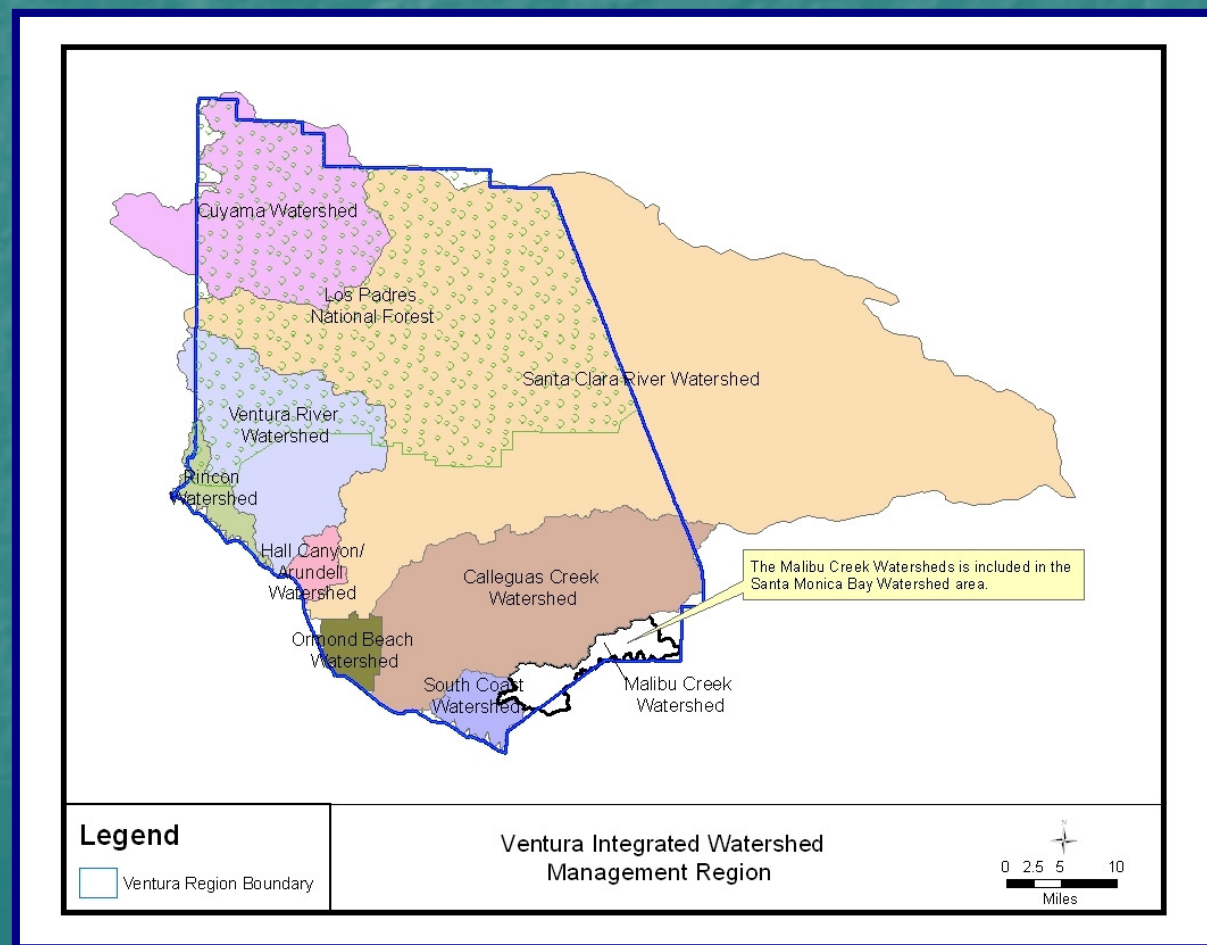


# Topics

- Overview
- Facts about Ventura County
- History of Water Management in Ventura County
- Proposition 50 Grants Received
- Local IRWMP Issues and Projects
- Success Through Collaboration and Consensus



# WATERSHEDS COALITION OF VENTURA COUNTY - REGION







# Ventura County Facts

- Population - over 818,000
- 1,843 square miles
- 50% in National Forest
- 330,000 acres of ag land (125,000 acres irrigated)
- Ag products valued at \$1.5 billion
- 3 major watersheds
- 10 cities
- Groundwater – major source (65%)
- Imported state water (25%)
- Surface water – 8%

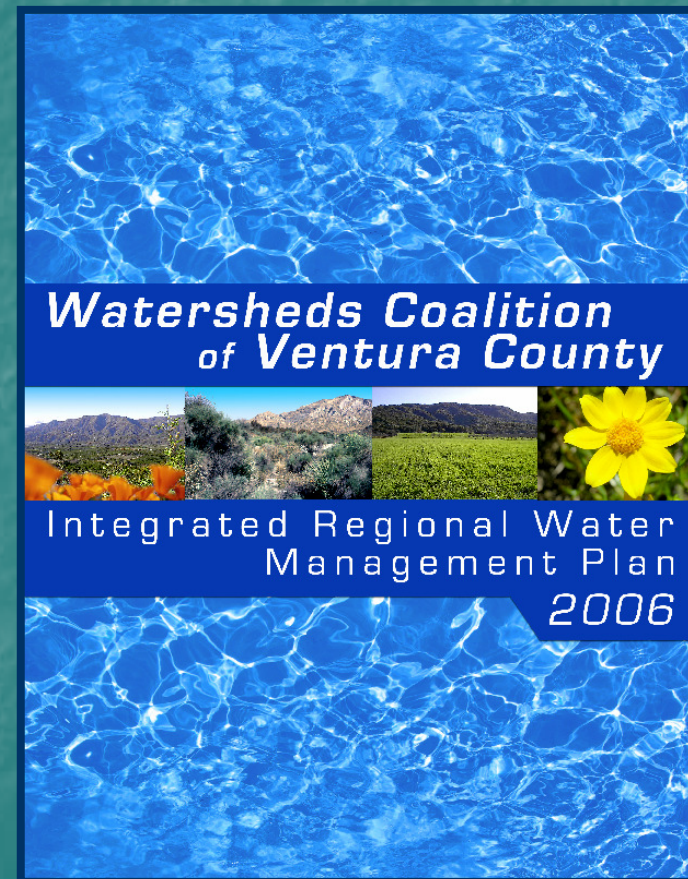
# HISTORY

- 1980s: Section 208 Water Quality Management Plan and Wastewater Reuse Study – Major Countywide Effort
- 1980s: Projects Implemented – Seawater Intrusion Abatement, Freeman Diversion facility, conservation program, others
- 1994 – Water Management Plan - Update to 208 Water Quality Management Plan
- 1996 – Calleguas Creek Steering Committee Formed
- 2002 – Ventura County IRWM Group Formed to Prepare for Passage of Water Bond
- 2006 – Received Proposition 50 Planning Grant
- 2006 WCVC Formed – Regional IRWM Plan Adopted
- 2007 Received \$25 million Prop. 50 Implementation Grant
- 2008 – IRWMP Update Underway



# IRWM PLAN

- Proposition 50 Planning Grant
- Over 60 participating entities
- IRWMP Update underway
- Implementation of water management strategies underway



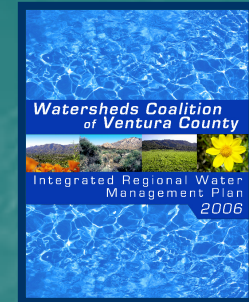


# OVERALL POLICY GOALS



- Improve water quality
- Expand available supply and reliability
- Improve efficiency
- Address infrastructure needs
- Enhance environmental benefits
- Minimize costs

# PLAN OBJECTIVES



- To protect and augment water supplies
- To protect and improve water quality
- To protect people, property and the environment from adverse flooding impacts
- To protect and restore habitat and ecosystems in watersheds
- To provide water-related recreational and educational opportunities



# IRWMP IMPLEMENTATION

- Proposition 50 Implementation Grant (\$25 million) – County is contractor with SWRCB
- Local ongoing programs (recycling, efficiency, stormwater quality management, etc)
- Local matching funds
- New, multiple benefit projects proposed by stakeholder committees
- Most planning at watershed level



# Implementation Projects Proposition 50 Grant

- Tapo Canyon Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
- Camarillo Ground Water Treatment Facility
- VC Water Works District 1 Recycled Water Project
- Calleguas Arundo Removal Project
- Calleguas Regional Salinity Management Project
- Ventura River Watershed Protection Plan
- San Antonio Creek Spreading Grounds Rehabilitation
- Senior Canyon Water Company Automation Upgrades Project
- El Rio Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project
- Oxnard Forebay Groundwater Contaminant Elimination Project
- Fillmore Integrated Water Recycling and Wetlands Project



















# KEY WATER QUALITY ISSUES

- Chloride levels – Calleguas Creek and Santa Clara River
- Nutrient contamination – Oxnard Plain
- TMDLs in all three watersheds
- Seawater Intrusion – Oxnard Plain
- Stormwater runoff pollution concerns



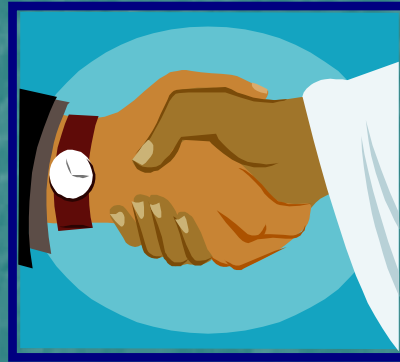


# NPS PROGRAMS



- IRWM Plan addresses NPS prevention strategies
- TMDLs – watershed level response
- Low impact development and smart growth strategies
- Community for a Clean Watershed – Countywide effort
- Conditional Ag waiver – monitoring program
- Stormwater quality control measures – revised NPDES/Stormwater draft permit

# SUCCESS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND CONSENSUS



- Strong Stakeholder Process
- Governance Structure
- Consensus Process

# STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATING



- County of Ventura
- 10 Cities
- 3 Wholesale Water Agencies
- Sanitation Districts
- Water Purveyors
- Other Special Districts
- State and Federal Agencies
- Environmental Groups
- Other Non-Profits
- Resource Conservation District





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# GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE



**Calleguas Creek  
Watershed  
Steering Committee**

**Santa Clara River  
Watershed Committee**

**Ventura River  
Watershed Council**

# MORE ON GOVERNANCE..

- WCVC is the Regional Water Management Group
- MOU between the County and 21 participating funding entities
- Funding provided annually for ongoing IRWM effort
- Program housed at County
- Informal decision making and consensus process

# CONSENSUS PROCESS

## Why it works.....

- IRWM efforts focused at watershed level
- WCVC process informal – no voting
- General agreement on issues and priorities due to long history of collaboration
- Positive relationship between growers, urban water suppliers, environmental groups
- Conflicts among entities rare – usually resolved amicably with better outcomes



# What's Next?

- Preparing for Prop. 84 and IE
- Seeking other sources of funding
- Further collaboration with partners both in and adjacent to WCVC region
- Enhanced watershed-level planning efforts
- Increased collaboration with residents through watershed planning









# **Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County**



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